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THE NEW YORK BLOOD CENTER



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June 8, 1979

Professor Atallah Kappas The Rockefeller University

Dear Kap:

It has been a long time since we discussed matters, and since I've not received the annual reinstatement of my adjunct faculty status at the University, I'll drop you this note, a sort of summary of my activities this year.

Over the past 21 years, I have studied well over 100 patients with Turner's syndrome, and related disorders (monosomy X, "pure" or in mosaicism). Turner's syndrome occurs only 1:3,000 birts (approximately), so this is a huge experience, and eventually I plan to write a monograph on the subject. The main source of these patients has been referral from Dr. Reginald Archibald. (The second major source has been The New York Hospital, referrals to me directly.) I continue to follow many of these patients/families. During the past year, I have, with Dr. Archibald, worked out of The R.U. Hospital medical record room a great deal, and continuation of this is essential. (The record room staff have, incidentally, been most helpful, but I believe our activity has not burdened them unduly.)

A few patients and families not in the monosomy-X group which originally were my (and usually Dr. A.p. Bearn's) patients at The Hospital are also still followed, and, again, the record room is needed for this longterm activity.

As you know, I have long wanted to begin a "chromosome follow-up clinic" at The Hospital, seeing 2-3 old patients/families a week, mainly to learn the longterm course of the disorder produced by various imbalances of the autosomes and sex chromosomes. This Chromosome Clinic would also permit follow-up of patients/ families with a chromosome-breakage syndrome (Bloom's syndrome, Fanconi's anemia, ataxia telangiectasia, exeroderma). At present I follow this highly interesting and valuable clinical material in a rather haphazard way by having the people come to our laboratory at the Blood Center, which is not completely satisfactory. I have in mind "scheduling" the various people we've seen over the years and with whom I still have contact (and there are many), so that each of the ones who is either interesting scientifically or who really needs long-term counsel will be seen once perhaps every 2-3 years. As you can imagine, such a clinic would be most stimulating, and although teaching is not my group's main objective, selected persons (1-2 students or fellows) could literally get an education in medical genetics by participating in it. It would mainly be my own activity, however. In the past you have felt the uncertainty of the R.U.H. Clinic's future made the beginning of such a venture inappropriate, but this was very much in my own mind when we began the adjunct appointment several years ago. Such a clinic certainly would serve a model

role, and that's in line with R.U.H. tradition. If and when you believe it feasible, I'd like to begin this clinic.

My group's interactions with groups at the University are several but I'll mention only student relations. (i) At present we are engaged with John Hurley (graduated this week) and his mentors in some cytological analyses of the valuable leukemia cell lines they developed. (ii) Bruce Korf has for many years attended my lab's journal club and its seminar club (we rotate in the presentations), two sessions weekly. I believe this activity has played a major role in orienting Bruce, and keeping his interest in human genetics active, and in turn he has contributed in an admirable way. I hope that RU students can interact with my lab similarly in the future. The Blood Center on purpose is not affiliated with any one institution—we are a community resource and program, for all—but I treasure the opportunity to communicate freely with my many friends at the University. The adjunct appointment greatly facilitates our lab's research. (I attach a list of recent publications.)

Finally, the pending bequest ("If Doctor James L. German survives me, to The Rockefeller University, 1230 York Avenue, New York, New York, for the continuation of the study of Bloom's syndrome by him"; Will of Lida Bloom) could in due time mean that even firmer relations will be possible. (I spoke to Mr. Barry Grass of this; possibly you did not see the will.)

For these several reasons I believe the adjunct appointment you arranged has been highly valuable bilaterally and I myself hope it can be continued. As in the past, I encourage you to call on me when you think I or the resources of my (small) group can help you out in any way, clinically, scientifically, or in teaching.

Tours Carry,

James L. German, III, M.D.

cc: Prof. H. Kunkel

Pres. J. Lederberg

Prof. E. Diakunchio